

THE JESTER'S VALENTINE



The writing of a Valentine
May seem an easy thing;
But you must use discretion
When you do it for a King.
—Mark Fenderson.

HEARTS AND DARTS OF ST. VALENTINE

'Tis the returning festival of the venerable Bishop Valentine, as be-
rhythmed by poets and beloved of lovers
in these wireless telegraph days, as
it was in Merrie England of old, when,
as Charles Lamb records, "the weary
and all forspent twopenny postman
sank beneath a load of delicate em-
barrassment not his own."

What manner of person was this
saint of eternal youth, whose name so
brightly burns and glows in the
rubic? The Church Calendar assigns
him to the distant date of 270 A. D.,
but gives no particulars. We do
know, however, that through all these
intervening centuries Saint Valen-
tine's name has typified "that univer-
sal sweet unrest which impels poor
humans to seek perfection in union."
Also, that hearts and Hymen's darts,
and rhymed madrigals, in which the
sender's name must be read between
the lines, have been from time im-
memorial associated with the date of
Feb. 14, the good Bishop's birthday.
The more chivalrous and devout men
have been the more ardent in their
observance of the sentimental anni-
versary.

Can any twentieth century valentine
surpass this one of the Spanish
knight-crusader, quoted by Lockhart?

"My ornaments are arms,
My pestle is in war,
My bed is cold upon the wold,
My lamp yon star."

"My journeyings are long,
My slumbers short and broken;
From hill to hill I wander still,
Kissing thy token."

"I ride from land to land,
I sail from sea to sea;
Some day more kind I fate may find,
Some night kiss thee."

George Washington passed through
more than one violent valentine
courtship before he led the Widow
Custis to the altar. You can read his
love lyrics in any grown-up "Life."

His ecclesiastical contemporary,
John Wesley, the founder of Metho-
dism, could also pen an occasional val-
entine verse as well as a church hymn
—as witness the following, only re-
cently unearthed in one of his dairies,
relating to his Georgia love affair with
Sophy Hopkey:

"This day, to hearts united dear,
Sees my fond romance ever
Why should her light feet linger here
To wait a laggard lover?"

"Since my bereavement is begun,
I try, but cannot pray.
O Lord, since first I saw the sun
Was never such a day!"



On Cupid's Day
One may, they say,
Send tokens to a friend,
Of love most true,
As mine for you
A love that neer shall end

Accept then, dear,
The token here,
That tells this love of mine
Or else a dart
Will pierce the heart
Of your fond Valentine

A Valentine Revival



Dr. March, on his rounds, dropped
in to see Annie Tupper as a matter of
course. Annie was a cripple and de-
pendent for a home upon her married
brother, a hard-working mechanic;
and though her good friends, busy folk
all called as often as they could to
make sure that comforts were not
lacking, she spent many hours alone.
When Annie saw who was at the door
her face brightened with pleasure,
for the bluff, kindly old surgeon had
been her friend and confidant for
many years.

"What's all this, Annie?" he asked
with interest; "been playing paper
dolls all by yourself?"

She laughed in some embarrassment
"There, now! I was hoping you didn't
notice; but if you won't tell I'll let
you into the secret. Well, doctor, I'm
making valentines."

"Valentines!" There was wonder-
ment in his tone.

"Sounds foolish, don't it? But it's
like this: Sitting here alone, I guess
I think more about the holidays than
if I was up and doing; and sometimes
I get low-spirited, thinking how much
more they used to mean than they do
now. Wicked, ain't it, and me so well
fixed? The other day, when I saw
how near the 14th was, I began think-
ing about the days when I was young
and straight and pretty and used to
get a peck of valentines every year.

I was getting real sorry for myself,
when all of a sudden, thinks I, 'Annie
Tupper, do you s'pose your plain, mid-
dle-aged face is the only one St. Valen-
tine don't notice nowadays? How
many of your friends that's over fifty
ever see a valentine any more?' To
be sure, their lives are full'n mine,
so maybe they don't miss such things
much! but all the same I bet they
like it when some one remembers. So
I made a list of the getting-middle-
aged ladies with no beaux or hus-
bands, and the married ones with hus-
bands that look too busy or matter-
of-fact to remember birthdays and
Valentine days and such things, and I
made up my mind I'd send 'em each
a little remembrance my own self,
even if it wasn't much.

"I think it's a beautiful idea," said
the doctor, heartily. He was deeply
touched by the thought of those pa-
tient hands undertaking such a labor
of love; he wondered, too, whether his
own quiet, gray-haired wife was on
the list, and counted remorsefully the
years since he had remembered her
violets on the good saint's anniver-
sary. "You're a good little soul, An-
nie!" he added, impulsively.

"Not such a saint as I might be,"
Annie confessed, with a twinkle of
fun in the brown eyes; "sometimes,
looking through the list, I can't help
being tickled, thinking what good
subjects for 'comics' some of 'em
would make. There's Mrs. Adams'
slack housekeeping, and her bonnet
over one eye; and the way Mrs. Wood
gossips; and Mary Trask, with her big
hats and short dresses and high heels,
trying to look like a spring chicken;
and—oh! lots of funny little ways that
folks have. But when such things
come to me, I remember how Mrs.
Adams wore herself out nursing me
when I had fever, and how generous
Mrs. Wood is; and as for Mary, she's
a perfect angel to her grumpy old
father, and a master hand at cooking,
as I've reason to know. Every one of
'em's been good to me, and I only
wish I had something better to give
than my little paper fixings."

Valentine's day arrived, bright and
cold. Toward evening Doctor March
could not resist dropping in to see
Annie for a few moments. The in-
valid sat in her chair by the window,
her face flushed with excitement and
happiness. In her lap, caressed by
her thin fingers, was a heap of bright
cards and dainty trifles, while more
substantial reminders of the day were
in evidence.

Annie looked at him with radiant
eyes, "Oh, Doctor March, what a good
time I've had!" she sighed, blissfully.
"Why, all day long the doorbell's been
ringing, and valentines just pouring
in—some of 'em so funny and cute
they made me laugh, and some so
sweet I most cried. And even my
pussy cat got one—didn't you, Topsy?
See the dear little bundle of outnip
some one sent her! Folks have been
good to me before, but it just seems
as though these lovely, frilly, not-use-
ful things make 'em seem more friend-
ly than ever. Doctor," her face cloud-
ed with sudden anxiety, "you didn't
tell on me, did you? I'm afraid it
wouldn't be quite so—so perfect, if
people knew I was going to send to
them, and wanted to sort of even up
you know."

BIRD IS FRIEND OF FARMER

Goldfinch Benefits Agriculture by Con-
suming Seeds of Noxious Weeds,
Especially Thistle.

(By H. W. WEISBERGER, in the Farm
and Fireside.)

Why do I class the goldfinch as a
winter resident? Simply because I
think that many a farm boy sees
them and hears the familiar "canary
notes" and does not know them to
be our common black and yellow
"wild canaries" of the summer time.
This is what they are, but they have
donned the greenish-yellow garb of
the female. Often, if they have found
a food feeding place with plenty of
goldenrod or a ragweedy corn field,
they will remain until the seeds have
been consumed, which often requires
weeks of time.

They must not, however, be con-
founded with another, similar north-
ern winter bird, the pine-siskin, whose
notes are somewhat identical, but



The Goldfinch.

whose streaked breast can be distin-
guished from the solid color of the
goldfinch.

During the winter they travel in
small flocks, often in company with
tree-sparrows and juncos. But when
spring comes they pair, and then be-
gins a long season of courtship, for
they do not breed until July. The
males are very ardent and affection-
ate lovers. Goldfinches are among the
few birds that may be observed in-
dulging in kissing one another during
the courting period.

In the late summer and fall they
visit the gardens, both in the country
and in town, to gather what lettuce
and sunflower seed they find awaiting
them.

They benefit agriculture by eating
the seeds of noxious weeds, especially
the common thistle, and in feeding
their young upon harmful insects. Be-
ing with us, to some extent, through-
out the winter only tends to add to
their usefulness.

LOWLY HOG IS ECONOMICAL

Puts to Good Use All It Consumes,
Eighty Per Cent. of Carcass
Being Available.

The American hog is the most eco-
nomical of animals. Of what a horse
eats 52 per cent. goes to waste. Forty-
four per cent. of the food consumed by
cattle is similarly lost, and 32 per cent.
of all that sheep take into their stom-
achs. Only 12 per cent. of what a pig
eats is wasted. Fifty-two per cent. of
the food eaten by a hog goes to make
growth. A sheep utilizes only 25 per
cent. of its sustenance for growing,
which means, of course, the produc-
tion of meat. These figures are ob-
tained from recent experiments made
by government experts, who find, as a
result of their study, that the pig has
what they call an "economic superi-
ority" even over poultry. That is to
say, it produces more meat in propor-
tion to its weight, and the animal
weighs more in proportion to the
amount of food it consumes. Eighty-
four per cent. of the carcass of a hog
is utilized as meat; of the beef animal,
75 per cent. is edible, and of the sheep
only 54 per cent. Thus it appears
that a greater percentage of the pig is
available for food than of any other
domesticated creature.

Acid Phosphate in Henhouses.

The best practice is to use acid
phosphate or floats freely in the hen-
house. You can put the manure into
order for drying by thorough ex-
posure to drying air and then pound-
ing up and running through a coarse
sieve. It is deficient in phosphoric
acid, which the soil usually needs,
and at least 50 pounds of a good
grade of acid phosphate should be
added to each 100 pounds of the dry
manure. Four or five hundred pounds
per acre may be the most profitable
amount for your rye.

For Skin Disorder.

The following powder given each
day is said to be good for skin dis-
order in horses: Finely powdered
iodine of potash, 4 ounces; granu-
lated sugar and common salt, of each
1 pound. Mix well together and di-
vide into thirty-two powders. Feed
no corn, but let the grain feed be
oats and wheat bran. Use tincture
of iodine on the lumps every second
day until the skin becomes a little
tender.

Danger of Poor Ventilation.

If you want your sheep to die; shut
them up in a tight pen where they
cannot move about much; and stuff
them with hay and grain all the
time. The way to have healthy sheep
is to let them have a spin around the
lot every day.

Opening Up Drain Outlets.

A few hours spent now to see that
all the drain outlets are well opened
may save considerable delay on ac-
count of wet fields in the spring.

COST OF BUILDING CREAMERY

One Must First Figure on Expense and
Then on Equipment—Pays
to Build Well.

(By G. A. GILBERT, Colorado Agricul-
tural College.)

Creamery builders must figure the
cost, first, of the building, second, of
the equipment. A suitable and con-
venient building will contain a main
work room, store room, refrigerator,
engine and boiler room, coal room and
an office. Such a medium sized cream-
ery would measure 28x48 feet. In
some sections labor and material are
much cheaper than in others and the
cost varies accordingly. However, we
can place the limit of cost of such a
construction between one thousand
and fifteen hundred dollars.

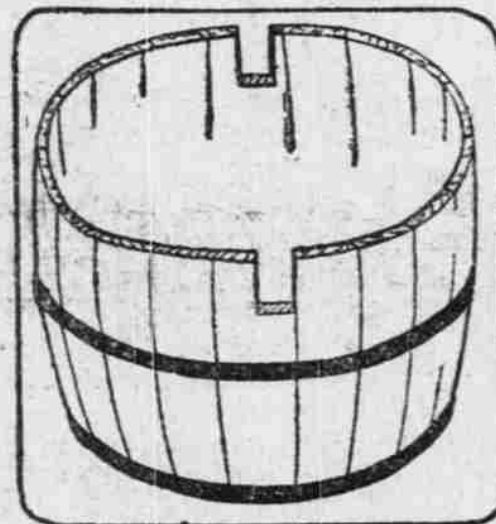
Where only gathered cream is re-
ceived the equipment required is less
than where whole milk is received. In
the first instance, of the gathered
cream plant, the following would be
necessary: 15 H. P. boiler; 10 H. P.
engine; a well and pump; weigh can
and scales; Babcock testing equip-
ment complete; combiner churn, capa-
city 600 lbs. butter; buttermilk vat;
cream ripener; starter can; wash sink.
Besides this there will be shafting,
pulleys, piping, belting, etc. By mak-
ing two churnings a day in the rush
season, 1,200 pounds of butter could be
manufactured per day in a plant of
this size. The cost of equipment would
approximately be \$1,200.

The total cost of a creamery with-
out artificial refrigeration will vary
from \$2,200 to \$3,000. In the long run
it pays to build well and to use first
class equipment in a creamery, and
this is the basis of the foregoing fig-
ures. In many cases on-record cream-
eries started by promoters of rep-
resentatives of construction companies
have cost exorbitant prices and out
of all proportion to the business they
are able to do.

NECESSARY FOR TOOL SHOP

One Essential Is Water and in Re-
ceptacle Large Enough for All
Needs—Tub Is Best.

Wherever the farmer has his own
blacksmith shop, it is almost neces-
sary to have water handy, and have it
in a vessel large enough for the needs
of the shop. The half barrel makes
a very good vessel for this purpose.
The half of a common coal oil barrel
will make a very good tub. The
notches, shown in the illustration,
form good supports for the wagon



Water Tub for Shop.

wheels when cooling the set tires.
The notches will also be found handy
for other purposes about the tub, such
as keeping tongs, lays, etc., from slip-
ping to the bottom of the tub when
set upright to cool.

When Soils Cease to Produce.

The trouble with soils when they
cease to produce as they did when
new is not that the elements of plant
food are actually exhausted from the
soil, but the necessary forces for the
liberation are exhausted. One of
these forces is bacteria. It is esti-
mated that in the common soil there
are 150,000,000 bacteria to the ounce.
These bacteria must have for their
food, humus, then they will liberate
food for the growth of plants. To be
a good farmer one needs to grow le-
gumes and other cover crop plants
to turn under for humus, and to en-
courage these beneficial bacteria to
perform their functions in the soil.

Fattening Market Fowls.

To fatten poultry for market, re-
move them from the yards and place,
without overcrowding, in a coop which
should be provided with a canvas cov-
er to draw down and keep the in-
mates in darkness. Do not feed for
about six hours after placing in the
coop, and then feed all they will eat.
Feed three times a day, and keep
fresh water and a basin of grain al-
ways before them.

Attention to Colts' Feet.

Don't forget to give the colts' feet
attention. Now is when the set of
limbs is determined. There is always
a reason for a poor set of limbs.
It may be hereditary, but it is generally
carelessness on the part of the owner
who did not keep his feet trimmed
down level with the frog. A colt's
feet are continually breaking off and
splitting if they are not attended to
promptly.—Horse Journal.

Treating Nail Wounds.

One who has tried it says that the
most successful treatment that he has
found for nail wounds in horses' feet
is to clean the wound and pour full of
hot tallow or lard. This seems to
give very little pain, and one treat-
ment generally cures.

Clean Milk.

Milk that makes gassy curds is usu-
ally dirty. Clean milk and clean uten-
sils will never produce gassy curds.



LITTLE TOY MOST AMUSING

Figures of Two Pugilists Swing Back
and Forth Under Impact of
Their Own Blows.

A most amusing toy that can be
made by any ingenious boy has been
patented by an Illinois man. It con-
sists of a piece of cardboard or thin
wood upon which the figures of two
boxers swing back and forth under the
impact of their blows. These blows,
by the way, are delivered by the op-
erator's fingers, which are thrust
through openings in the shoulders of
the figures and have miniature boxing
gloves fastened on the tips, converting
them into lifelike-looking arms. The



Amusing Fighters.

lower portion of the fighters—from
waist down—is drawn on the card, but
their torsos and heads are in separate
pieces, pivoted at the waist, so that
they swing freely. There is a stop,
however, so that if one of the men
gets an unusually vigorous punch in
the jaw he will only bend back to a
certain point and will spring forward
again to the fray.

KISSING WAS IN STYLE THEN

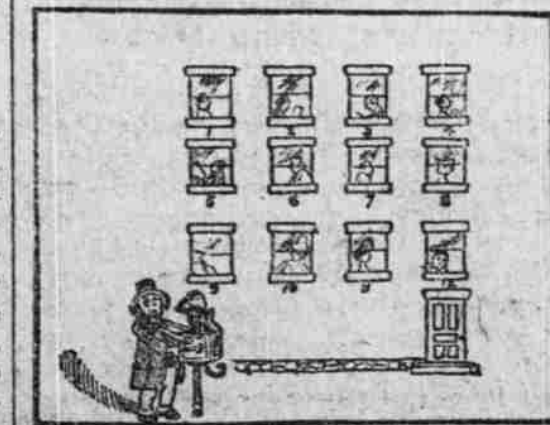
In 17th Century English Women
Were Offended at Other Greet-
ing—Now a Lost Art.

Kissing is almost a lost art in Eng-
land, the London Chronicle states.
Its universal prevalence in the sev-
enteenth century was the wonder of
the foreigner. Nicolaus de Bethlen,
who visited this country in 1663, re-
lates that "my brother and I behaved
very rudely on one occasion, being
unaware that it was customary in
that country to kiss the corner of the
mouth of women, instead of shaking
hands as we do in Hungary. We
were invited to dine at the house of
a man of high rank and found his
wife and three daughters (one of them
married) ready to receive us. We
kissed the girls, but not the married
women, and thereby greatly offended
the latter. Duval apologized for our
blunder and told us when saluting we
must always kiss the senior woman
first and leave the girls to the last."

PUZZLE OF LITTLE MONKEY

Small Animal Desires to Collect Pen-
nies From Twelve Windows as
Speedily as Possible.

The thoughtful expression worn by
the monkey is due to the fact that his
master has ordered him to visit the 12
windows and return with his crop of
pennies as speedily as possible.
Joko is calculating the shortest
route which will take him past all



The Monkey Puzzle.

the windows and back to his master's
shoulder.

Now, if you were in Joko's place, in
what order would you visit the soci-
able looking residents?

Joko's shortest route in visiting the
12 windows and returning to his mas-
ter's shoulder is as follows:

Nos. 10, 11, 12, 8, 4, 3, 7, 6, 2, 1, 5,
and 9.

The two upper floors being closer
together than the first and second,
makes such routes as 10, 6, 7, 11, 12,
8, 4, 3, 2, 1, 5, and 9 slightly longer
than the route given above, which is
the shortest possible answer, and may
not be varied.

Little Joe's Fear.

Little Joe—Mamma, I was awfully
afraid when you shut me in the dark
closet.

Mamma—Why, Joe, what were you
afraid of?

Little Joe—I was afraid I couldn't
find the cake.

CAR "DON'TS" FOR CHILDREN

Exhibition to Teach Them How to
Avoid Accidents—Text Book
Contains Many Warnings.

The American Museum of Safety is
going to try to teach the children of
New York to exercise more care when
they are in the streets, so that there
will be fewer accidents.

When the children get to the
museum they will see little trolley
cars and dolls to teach them certain
dangers, and how to get on and off
a car. The children will also get a
little text book of "Don'ts" that con-
tain these cautions:

Don't hang on behind the car.
Don't stand on the car steps.
Don't touch a wire; it may be a
live one.

Don't put your head or arms out
of the car window.

Don't run across a car track in
front of an approaching car, automo-
bile or wagon.

Don't cross immediately behind a
passing car; there may be another car
or wagon approaching closely in the
opposite direction.

Don't jump on or off a moving car.

Don't get off facing rear of car.

Don't cross street without looking
both ways for passing automobiles
and wagons.

Don't fail, when leaving car, to
look both ways for other vehicles.

Don't play in the street where car
tracks are.

Don't cross a street except at a
crosswalk.

Don't take a chance.

The museum folks are hoping to
get the Interboro to carry the chil-
dren to and from the museum free of
charge.—New York Times.

MANNIKIN IS AMUSING TOY

German Invention Is Operated by Boy
Drawing in Breath and Blowing
Through Small Tube.

An amusing variation of the jointed
mannikin that flings its arms and legs
about when a string is pulled has been
designed by a man in Germany, the
home of toys. The figure is made and
joined in the same old way and the
joints are even connected with a cen-
tral cord, but there the resemblance
to the old toy stops. This central
cord is fastened to a plunger that
moves up and down in the upper sec-
tion of a rectangular suction pipe.

To make the mannikin dance, a boy
takes the tube in his mouth and alter-
nately blows through it and draws in



An Amusing Toy.

his breath. This causes the plunger
to move rapidly up and down and the
cords that are attached to the arms
and legs are relaxed and drawn out
with the result of moving those mem-
bers.

RIDDLES.

Where does charity begin?
At C (sea).

Which is the strongest day in the
week?

Sunday, because all the rest are
weekdays.

Which is the easiest to spell—fid-
dle-dee-dee or fiddle-de-dum?

The former, because it is spelt with
more e's.

What do we do when, to increase
the effect, we diminish the cause?

Snuff the candle.

What word will, if you take away
the first letter, make you sick?

Muscle.

What chins are never shaved?

Ur-chins.

Who are the most wicked people in
the world, and why?

Pen makers; because they make
people steel pens and tell them they
do write (right).

Why is a pretty woman like a
lock?

Because she is a thing to a door
(adore).

Why is a short man attempting to
kiss a tall woman like an Irishman
going up Vesuvius?

Because he is trying to get to the
mouth of the crater (creature).

In case of an accident, what is bet-
ter than presence of mind?

Absence of b.d.y.

What did the spider do when he
left the ark?

He took a fly and went home.

When do we first hear of the use of
paper currency?

When the dove brought the green
bac. into the ark.

Why is a street door like a beer
barrel?

Because it is often tapped.

When I walked through a field of
wheat

I picked up something good to eat,
'Twas neither fish, flesh, fowl, nor
bone;

I kept it till it ran alone.
(An egg.)